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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,479	02/12/2004	Katsuhito Aoki	HGM-127-A	2304

21828 7590 03/22/2010
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EXAMINER

FRISBY, KESHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3715

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/22/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/777,479	Applicant(s) AOKI ET AL.	
	Examiner KESHA FRISBY	Art Unit 3715	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

After the amendment filed on 8/25/2009, claims 1-7 & 9-16 are pending in this application. Claim 8 was canceled.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the selector limitation, the claim should read as follows: "... in a running route upon the driving simulation apparatus, ..." in order to overcome the antecedent basis issue. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-3 & 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0216161), Aoki (JP 2002-297017), Walker et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0033161) and Brink et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0173743).**

Referring to claim 1, Busse et al. discloses an interactive driving simulation apparatus (simulation module) for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road (paragraph 0022), wherein said apparatus allows the student operator (player) to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle (paragraph 0022),

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wherein said apparatus is operable to display a virtual environment as a screen image on a display unit based on a real-time driving routine of a simulated vehicle by the student operator (paragraph 0023) and a selector which automatically selects performance evaluation comments based on operator input in a simulated driving route sequence, by the driving operation of the student operator in a driving route sequence determined in advance in a running route upon the simulation apparatus (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065), wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065), and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills (paragraph 0023). *Busse et al. does not disclose wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a driving route sequence and replaying the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed and a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads.* However, Aoki et al. teaches wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a driving route sequence (storage means & paragraphs 0012 & 0021) and replaying the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed (paragraphs 0015, 0016, 0022 & 0025) and a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads (Fig. 5). It would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include recording, replaying and a simulated operating environment, as disclosed by Aoki et al., incorporated into Busse et al. in order to memorize and review the condition data including the run state of the simulation car in time of simulation and to give the operator a simulated driving experience. *Busse et al./Aoki et al. does not teach wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit.* However, Walker et al. teaches wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed auditory of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit (paragraph 0287). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed auditory of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit, as disclosed by Walker et al., incorporated into Aoki et al./Busse et al. in order to provide commentary along with the replay of a relevant portion of the game. *Walker et al. does not disclose written text.* However, Brink et al. et al. teaches several different types of communicating said comments (claim 14). All of the component parts are known in Walker et al. and Brink et al. et al. The only difference is the combination of the "old elements" into a single device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to include written text, as disclosed by Brink et al. et al., incorporated into Aoki/Walker et al. in order to be able to make the game comments accommodating for all users. Also both Walker et al. and Brink et al. et al. teaches methods for producing commentary, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute one method for the other to achieve the predictable result of making the game comments accommodating for all users.

Referring to claim 2, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki et al., Walker et al. and Brink et al., discloses wherein said selector selects only a scene at which an unsafe action was performed by the operator within the simulated driving route sequence, and matches performance evaluation comments corresponding to said scene at which an unsafe action was performed to the operator's recorded performance (column 6 lines 5-12 of Aoki et al.), and wherein said display screen displays only the scene at which the unsafe action was performed and the performance evaluation comments (video display of Aoki et al.).

Referring to claim 3, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki et al., Walker et al. and Brink et al., discloses further comprising: a speaker (paragraph 0044: an audio speaker of Walker et al.) for reading the performance evaluation commentary aloud upon reproduction thereof on said display unit.

Referring to claim 6, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki et al., Walker et al. and Brink et al., discloses wherein the apparatus is operable without requiring input from any person other than the student operator during testing (rider/operator of Aoki et al.) & (abstract:

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season mode, paragraphs 0007, 0020, 0022 & 0023 of Busse et al.) and replay (playback means of Aoki et al.).

4. Claims 4 & 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al./Aoki et al./Walker et al. and further in view of Scott et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2004/0009812).

Referring to claim 4, Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. discloses an interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1 and in which the simulated operating environment and the performance evaluation commentary are simultaneously displayed thereon (see claim 1). Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. does not disclose wherein: said display unit is operable to pause the replay and to display a still-screen image.

However, Scott et al. teaches wherein: said display unit is operable to pause the replay (paragraph 0029) and to display a still-screen image (inherent function of pause: when you pause an image the display has a still-screen image). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include pause the replay, as disclosed by Scott et al., incorporated into Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. in order for the instructor to discuss the driving situation with the user.

Referring to claim 5, Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. discloses an interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1. Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. does not disclose wherein: said display unit reproduces a screen image recorded during a real-time simulation at a normal replay speed or temporarily pauses the replay and displays a still-screen image at a selected driving situation obtained from the driving route sequence, and performs fast-feeding replay or skipping replay at scenes other

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than the selected driving situation. However, Scott teaches wherein: said display unit (visual display 15) reproduces a screen image recorded during a real-time simulation at a normal replay speed or temporarily pauses the replay (paragraph 0029) and displays a still-screen image at a selected driving situation (inherent function of pause: when you pause an image the display has a still-screen image), and performs fast-feeding replay or skipping replay at scenes other than the selected driving situation (fast-forward). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the limitations of the display unit, as disclosed by Scott, incorporated into Aoki et al./Busse et al./Walker et al. in order to analyze the driving situation.

5. Claims 7, 9 & 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al., Aoki et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,415,550), Walker et al., Brink et al. and Aoki et al. (2002-297017).

Referring to claim 7, Busse et al. discloses an interactive driving simulation apparatus (simulation module) for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road (paragraph 0022) allowing the student operator to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle (paragraph 0022), said driving simulation apparatus comprising: a recorder which records the specific performance data (paragraphs 0008 & 0020); automatically selects performance evaluation comments based on the comparison of the specific performance data with the base line performance data without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the operator (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065); wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined

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solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065), and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills (paragraph 0023 & this is an inherent result of the method and the prior art showing that when the player races several times the player will only get better because the player knows the track. This is the intended purpose of racing games. The player applies what they learned in the next race).

Busse et al. does not disclose an electromechanical simulator which interacts with the student operator during performance of a driving route sequence to teach the student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road, said electromechanical simulator comprising a support frame, a handlebar operatively connected to the support frame, a pedal mechanism operatively connected to the support frame, and a plurality of sensors for measuring student input and for generating data corresponding to a specific performance by the student operator; a processor which compares comparing the specific performance data to a set of base line performance data, the comparison of the specific performance data with the base line performance data and wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on the display unit based on a real-time driving route sequence of a simulated vehicle by the student operator and a display unit comprising a display screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment, a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and

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intersections with side roads, and the superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments when a portion of the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level, wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed. However, Aoki ('550) teaches an electromechanical simulator (simulated motorcycle 300) which interacts with the student operator (rider) during performance of a driving route sequence, said electromechanical simulator comprising a support frame (body frame 302), a handlebar operatively connected to the support frame (steering handle 308), a pedal mechanism operatively connected to the support frame (inherent component of a motorcycle), and a plurality of sensors (column 5 lines 48-55) for measuring student input and for generating data corresponding to a specific performance by the student operator; a processor which compares comparing the specific performance data to a set of base line performance data, the comparison of the specific performance data with the base line performance data (column 20 lines 51-66) and wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on the display unit based on a real-time driving route sequence of a simulated vehicle by the student operator (Figs. 9A & 9B & the associated text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an electromechanical simulator, as disclosed by Aoki ('550), incorporated into Busse et al. in order to provide an actual riding simulation apparatus. *Busse et al./Aoki et al. ('550) does not disclose a display unit which simultaneously displays the simulated*

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operating environment, a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads and the superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments when a portion of the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level and wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on the display unit based on a real-time driving route sequence of a simulated vehicle by the student operator, and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed. However, Walker et al. teaches a display unit which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and the superimposed auditory of performance evaluation comments when a portion of the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level (paragraph 0287). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed auditory of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit, as disclosed by Walker et al., incorporated into Busse et al./Aoki et al. ('550) in order to provide commentary along with the replay of a relevant portion of the game. *Busse et al./Aoki et al('550)/Walker et al. does not disclose a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow*

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and intersections with side roads, written text and wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on the display unit based on a real-time driving route sequence of a simulated vehicle by the student operator, and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed.

However, Brink et al. teaches several different types of communicating said comments (claim 14). All of the component parts are known in Walker et al. and Brink et al. The only difference is the combination of the "old elements" into a single device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include written text, as disclosed by Brink et al., incorporated into Busse et al./ Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al. in order to be able to make the game comments accommodating for all users. Also both Walker et al. and Brink et al. teaches methods for producing commentary, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute one method for the other to achieve the predictable result of making the game comments accommodating for all users. *Busse et al./ Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al./Brink et al. does not disclose wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on a display unit based on a real-time driving routine of a simulated vehicle by the student operator and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed.* However, Aoki et al. (2002-297017) teaches a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two—way traffic flow and intersections with side roads (Fig. 5), wherein a virtual

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environment is displayed as a screen image on a display unit based on a real-time driving routine of a simulated vehicle by the student operator (paragraph 0012: virtual experience), and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine (storage means) and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed (playback). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a simulated city, recording and playback, as disclosed by Aoki et al. (2002-297017), incorporated into Busse et al./ Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al./Brink et al.. in order for the student to receive the impression of driving in the real world, to memorize the current game state, as well as, present the game state to other individuals who might not be playing the game.

Referring to claim 9, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al./Brink et al. and Aoki et al. (2002-297017), discloses wherein selected input devices of the electromechanical simulator are operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator, and wherein the selected input devices are operable to perform a second set of functions which is different from the first set of functions during playback of a recorded performance (input device 13 of Aoki ('550)).

Referring to claim 10, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al./Brink et al. and Aoki et al. (2002-297017), discloses further comprising a speaker for generating an audible reproduction of the selected performance evaluation comments (column 4 lines 65-67 of Aoki et al. ('550)).

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6. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al. in view of Huston et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,146,143) and Walker et al..

Referring to claim 11, Busse et al. discloses a) generating a prerecorded driving simulation course including a plurality of testing situations on a display screen of a driving simulator (paragraphs 0007-0009, 0020, 0021-0023, 0025, 0062, 0063, 0065 & 0066) and c) comparing the operator's responses to prerecorded base line data (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0007, 0020, 0022 & 0023) and d) wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065), and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills (paragraph 0023). *Busse et al. does not disclose a) said driving simulation comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads, b) recording the operator's real-time responses to each testing situation on a computer memory and d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on the display screen, c) comparing the operator's responses to prerecorded base line data and d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on the display screen superimposed with selected written text of automatically generated performance evaluation comments corresponding to the operator's recorded responses, for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at*

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or above a specified level. However, Huston et al. teaches a) said driving simulation comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads (Figs. 4-7 & 11 & the associated text), b) recording the operator's real-time responses to each testing situation on a computer memory (column 8 lines 37-56) and d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on the display screen (column 8 lines 40-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a simulated city, recording and replaying, as disclosed by Huston et al., incorporated into Busse et al. in order for the student to receive the impression of driving in the real world, to memorize and review the condition date including the run state of the simulation car in time of simulation. *Busse et al./Huston et al. does not disclose d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on the display screen superimposed with selected written text of automatically generated performance evaluation comments corresponding to the operator's recorded responses, for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level.* However, Walker et al. teaches d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on the display screen superimposed with selected performance evaluation comments corresponding to the operator's recorded responses, for each testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level (paragraph 0287). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include replaying, as disclosed by Walker et al., incorporated into Huston et al./Busse et al. in order to provide commentary along with the replay of a relevant portion of the game.

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Referring to claim 12, Busse et al., as modified by Huston et al. and Walker et al., teaches the method is performable without requiring input from any person other than the student operator during testing and replay (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0007, 0020, 0022 & 0023 of Busse et al.).

Referring to claim 13, Busse et al., as modified Huston et al. and Walker et al., teaches further comprising a step of generating an audible performance evaluation commentary upon visual reproduction thereof on said display unit (paragraph 0287 of Walker et al.).

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al./Huston et al./Walker et al. and further in view of Scott et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2004/0009812).

Referring to claim 14, Busse et al./Huston et al./Walker et al. discloses the method of claim 11 and in when the simulated operating environment and the performance evaluation commentary are simultaneously displayed thereon (see claim 11). *Busse et al./Huston et al./Walker et al. does not disclose wherein the replay is paused to display a still-screen image.* In addition, since the apparatus displays the environment and commentary simultaneously and has the ability to playback this information, the information can be paused. However, Scott et al. teaches wherein the replay is paused to display a still-screen image (paragraph 0029) (inherent function of pause: when you pause an image the display has a still-screen image). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include pause the replay, as disclosed by Scott et al., incorporated into Busse et al./Huston et al./Walker et al. in order for the instructor to discuss the driving situation with the user.

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8. **Claims 15 & 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busse et al., Aoki et al. (2002-297017), Aoki et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,415,550), Walker et al. and Brink et al..**

Referring to claim 1, Busse et al. discloses an interactive driving simulation apparatus (simulation module) for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road (paragraph 0022) which allows a student operator (player) to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle (paragraph 0022), wherein said apparatus is operable to display a virtual environment as a screen image on a display unit based on a real-time driving routine of a simulated vehicle by the student operator (paragraph 0023) and a selector which automatically selects performance evaluation comments based on operator input in a simulated driving route sequence, by the driving operation of the operator in a driving route sequence determined in advance in a running route upon the simulation apparatus, without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the operator (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0012, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0023, 0025, 0062 & 0065) and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills (paragraph 0023).

Busse et al. does not disclose wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a driving route sequence and replaying the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed, said driving simulation apparatus comprising: an electromechanical with which the student operator interacts during real-time performance of a driving operation, the electromechanical simulator including input

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devices actuated by the student operator during the real-time performance of a driving operation and a display unit, said simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads.

However, Aoki et al. teaches wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a driving route sequence (storage means & paragraphs 0012 & 0021) and replaying the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed (paragraphs 0015, 0016, 0022 & 0025), said driving simulation apparatus comprising: an electromechanical simulator (30) with which the student operator interacts during real-time performance of a driving operation, the electromechanical simulator including input devices actuated by the student operator during the real-time performance of a driving operation (input interface 13) and a display unit (25 – display unit 28), said simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads (Fig. 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include simulated city, recording and replaying, as disclosed by Aoki et al., incorporated into Busse et al. in order for the student to receive the impression of driving in the real world, to memorize and review the condition data including the run state of the simulation car in time of simulation. *Busse et al./Aoki et al. does not disclose wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays both the simulated operating environment and the superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments to the student operator when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit and wherein selected input devices of the input devices of the electromechanical simulator are*

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operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator, and wherein the selected input devices are operable to perform a second set of functions which is different from the first set of functions during playback of a recorded performance. However, Aoki et al. ('550) teaches an electromechanical simulator (30 Simulation two-wheel barrow (simulation car) with which the student operator interacts during real-time performance of a driving operation, the electromechanical simulator including input devices actuated by the student operator during the real-time performance of a driving operation (input device 13) and wherein the selected input devices are operable to perform a second set of functions which is different from the first set of functions during playback of a recorded performance (input device 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include input devices, as disclosed by Aoki et al. ('550), incorporated into Busse et al./Aoki (2002-297017) in order to be able to interact with the simulated two wheeled barrow. *Busse et al./Aoki (2002-297017)/Aoki et al. does not teach wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays both the simulated operating environment and the superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments to the student operator when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit and wherein selected input devices of the input devices of the electromechanical simulator are operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator.* However, Walker et al. teaches wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed

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auditory of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit (paragraph 0287). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays the simulated operating environment and superimposed auditory of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit, as disclosed by Walker et al., incorporated into Busse et al./Aoki (2002-297017)/Aoki et al. ('550) in order to provide commentary along with the replay of a relevant portion of the game. *Busse et al./Aoki (2002-297017)/Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al. does not disclose written text and wherein selected input devices of the input devices of the electromechanical simulator are operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator.* However, Brink et al. teaches several different types of communicating said comments (claim 14). All of the component parts are known in Walker et al. and Brink et al. The only difference is the combination of the "old elements" into a single device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include written text, as disclosed by Brink et al., incorporated into Busse et al./Aoki (2002-297017)/Aoki et al. ('550)/Walker et al. in order to be able to make the game comments accommodating for all users. Also both Walker et al. and Brink et al. teaches methods for producing commentary, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute one method for the other to achieve the predictable result of making the game comments accommodating for all users.

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Referring to claim 16, Busse et al., as modified by Aoki (2002-297017), Aoki et al. ('550), Walker et al. and Brink et al., discloses wherein the interactive driving simulator apparatus further comprises a pre-stored selection of performance evaluation comments (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0007, 0020, 0022 & 0023 of Busse et al.), and wherein the selector selects an appropriate one of the performance evaluation comments from the pre-stored plurality of performance evaluation comments based on the student operators performance during the driving route sequence (abstract: season mode, paragraphs 0007, 0020, 0022 & 0023 Busse et al.).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 8/25/2009, with respect to 35 USC 112 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-16 have been withdrawn.

10. Applicant's arguments filed 8/25/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant asserts that Busse fails to disclose a selector which automatically selects performance evaluation comments based on operator input in a simulated driving route sequence. The simulator of Busse, which displays performance statistics, is significantly different than the claimed invention, which automatically selects and displays performance evaluation comments. The Examiner's assertion that the performance statistics of Busse are the same as the performance evaluation comments of the claimed invention is unfounded based on the actual teachings contained within Busse. The system of Busse simply displays simulated gauges which display actual readings taken from various sensors within the simulator. Thus there is no automatic

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selection required with such a visual display. Further, as noted above, Busse also discloses that options for the player to choose from that are displayed for the player at set intervals or at set times during the simulated race. These selectable queries, just as the performance statistics displayed to the player, are not equivalent to the performance evaluation comments of the present invention. Thus, Busse discloses numerical statistics that are compiled by the simulation mode to simulate full or partial game play. Distinct from this, the performance evaluation comments of the present invention are constructive comments that come in the form of a phrase that aid the operator in improving his/her driving skills. The examiner disagrees with the applicants assertion because Busse does disclose automatically selecting and displaying performance evaluation comments. The compiled statistics, attributes and other information are stored in the database which resides in memory 52 as specified in paragraph 0020 of Busse. Since the compiled statistics, attributes and other information are stored in the database which resides in memory 52 and are later used in the simulation module for making a determination of the outcome of the race as specified in paragraph 0007 these statistics are inherently automatically selected and used and displayed in order to create the simulated race. Further, the information must be stored somewhere in order to be displayed, for example, paragraph 0023 states several display elements which include performance statistics. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the performance evaluation comments of the present invention are constructive comments that come in the form of a phrase that aid the operator in

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improving his/her driving skills) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, paragraph 0068 specifically states that the present invention in Busse is not limited to the disclosed embodiments and Aoki et al. teaches in column 25 lines 25-29 that many more modifications are possible. Therefore, Busse can be combined with Aoki et al.. In response to applicant's argument that Busse is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, in one instance that Busse discloses simulated environments. Further, in response to applicant's argument that Walker et al. is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned,

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in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Walker et al. discloses that Walker is analogous art via the conclusion paragraphs 0287, 0289 & 0290. On page 18 of the Remarks regarding Brink et al., the applicant suggests that the Brink et al. reference teaches away from the present invention, thus providing prima facie evidence of non-obviousness and also provides another example of non-analogous art. The applicant states that Brink et al. fails to disclose a system that operates without requiring any input from the instructor or outside source, other than the operator being tested. The examiner has not used Brink et al. to teach this feature, Brink et al. was used to teach the different ways of communicating comments. Therefore, the applicant's teaching away argument is moot. In response to applicant's argument that Brink et al. is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Brink et al. discloses that the present invention relates to the field of skill based games (paragraph 0001). Therefore, Brink et al. is analogous art. Regarding claims 7-10, the applicant argues that the above references singly or in combination discloses the simultaneous display of simulated operating environment and performance evaluation comments, either audio or visual, which do not require any input from an outside source other than the operator being tested and that Aoki et al, does not disclose automatically selecting performance

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evaluation comments. For the sake of brevity, see the above arguments and rationale used in regards to claims 1-3 & 6. The applicant states that Busse does not disclose wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills. The examiner disagrees because in paragraph 0023 & this is an inherent result of the method and the prior art showing that when the player races several times the player will only get better because the player knows the track. This is the intended purpose of racing games. The player applies what they learned in the next race. Further, in an apparatus claim "wherein" is limiting if it further limits the structure and in this case it does not.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KESHA FRISBY whose telephone number is (571)272-8774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 3715